SYNOPSIS

'NICE PEOPLE DIE AT HOME'

BY

ROBERT BANKS STEWART

ACT I

Mr. Marshall and his daughter Nadia, run a pet shop in Shepherd's Bush. Their real name is Marenshke and their real profession - spies. Hunter knows they are about to retire and go back behind the Iron Curtain, and be replaced by Roscovitch - a Russian who speaks perfect English. He substitutes Callan for Roscovitch. Object: to let Callan get close to Belukov, the new head of Soviet espionage in Britain and kill him. Callan agrees - Belukov, is an old enemy who once killed a girl Callan loved. Roscovitch is intercepted and Callan takes his place. After reconnaissance, he tells Hunter it won't work - he will never meet Belukov; there are too many gaps in the chain of command. Hunter says that Belukov will get a message from Callan that the Marshalls are about to defect - that will bring him out, to kill them.

ACT II

Callan is seen with Nadia by Chelenko, Belukov's assistant. Chelenko goes to the pet shop to check. Callan prepares the microdot message which is to tell Belukov that the Marshalls are traitors. Before he can send it, he hears that Mr. Marshall has collapsed and has only a few weeks to live. Callan has come to like the Marshalls: they are ordinary people and very small spies - acting as a kind of 'Post Office'. He tells Hunter he will not send the message and will have nothing more to do with the job. He wants Marshall to die in his own country. Hunter tells Callan it is too late. He has diliberately let Roscovitch escape. Roscovitch will go to Belukov - and Belukov will come and kill the now compromised Marshalls.

ACT III

Callan prepares the pet shop as if for a siege. 'Lonely' holds a gun on the Marchalls in the back room. Callan waits in the shop for Belukov. Hunter and Meres watch from a window across the road. Belukov arrives and takes Callan by surprise. Nadia wounds him in the chest with Lonely's gun. Callan smuggles him out and telphones Hunter. He tells Hunter that Belukov is wounded not dead - and he will finish him off only on one condition: that Hunter puts the Marshalls on an aeroplane back to their own country. Lonely confirms that Hunter has done so. Callan braces himself to finish off the wounded Belukov. Belukov spares him the decision by dying first.

((ENDS))

'NICE PEOPLE DIE AT HOME'

CAST LIST

CALLAN	EDWARD WOODWARD
HUNTER	RONALD RADD
LONELY	RUSSELL HUNTER
MERES	ANTHONY VALENTINE
MARSHALL	HARRY TOWB
NADIA	ANGELA MORANT
BELUKOV	FREDERICK JAEGER
CHELENKO	JONATHAN BURN
ROSS	ROGER BIZLEY
DOCTOR	KENNETH BENDA

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